

Downtown Riverwalk and Plaza

Skagit Riverwalk Park is open to the public! Pictured on the right is the promenade that our residents and visitors can now enjoy! There will be intermittent closures of portions of the walkway, depending on the contractor work schedule. Strider Construction continues work on the general cleanup and brick work.

We began construction on June 15, 2013 after receiving generous funding from the State. For some, the time has flown by... for others, the completion cannot come soon enough. Thank you to the Downtown businesses who have been impacted by the project - for your patience, flexibility, and support.

This vitally important project is part of a master redevelopment plan that began in 2005, and was adopted in 2008. Policy makers including former Mayor Norris, City Councilmembers past and present, the Planning Commission, and a 31-member Citizens Advisory Group laid a foundation for the investment of public and private resources in the downtown area for the next 20 years. **The planning contained in the document transcends politics and describes the future of Mount Vernon as city of vitality and creativity through human endeavor.**

Plans are made and then carried out. This was entrusted to an extraordinary City staff. I'd like to acknowledge our mission driven department directors who have led our City team: Esco Bell and Mike Love (Public Works), Larry Otos (Parks and Recreation), Jana Hanson (Community and Economic Development), Alicia Huschka (Finance), and Kevin Rogerson (City Attorney).

Now, we turn our full momentum to the 3rd and final phase! The completion of Phase 3 will take the flood protection and trail to the far ends of the City limits around the Wastewater Treatment Plant. We are diligently working on securing the final funding (need \$3.6 million) and are tremendously grateful to Dike District 3 and the State of Washington for helping us get this far.

Flood Awareness Week

Every year City of Mount Vernon staff prepare for the risk of flooding. This year we have our new flood protection project flood wall in the Downtown area. Our staff is busy exercising the use of the 'stop logs.' When a flood threat occurs, staff installs bracing and aluminum 'logs' stacked horizontally to seal off the Downtown area from floods.



Bards of KeyPoynt

Thursday, October 23, 6 pm
Mount Vernon City Library
315 Snoqualmie Street

Visit the library for a performance by this self described band of "medieval-celtic-piratey-gypsy-really-we-do-everything celebrators and creators of all things music."

Hillcrest Haunted Forest

October 24 - 29

Ticket sales begin at 7 pm, Haunting at 7:30 pm
Hillcrest Park, 1717 S. 13th Street

\$10 per person...if you dare! (\$8 if pre-purchased by 5 pm on 10/23/14)

Not recommended for children under 10 years

For more information: Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation, (360) 336-6215

Mayor's Coffee Hour

Thursday, October 30
5:00 - 6:00 pm
Fire Station 2
1901 N. LaVenture Road

City of Mount Vernon Veterans Recognition Ceremony

Saturday, November 8
Mount Baker Middle School Cascade
Commons/Cafeteria Building
2310 E. Section Street

8:30 am - Complimentary breakfast for
Veterans and their families

9:00 am - Military Defense Hardware Display
10:00 am - Special Program

Mayor Jill Boudreau
910 Cleveland Avenue
P.O. Box 809
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

360.336.6211
www.mountvernonwa.gov



2015 Budget Process

The 2015 City budget process is underway. Our budget preparation cycle begins in August with all the Department Directors working on preparing their budget needs for the next year. In September I begin a series of 24 meetings with all the Directors to sift through the requests and decide the level of budget needed to fulfill our mission as a City. In October our Finance Director Alicia Huschka and I work diligently to bring the projected revenues and projected expenses into balance. It is a Washington State law that municipalities will adopt a balanced budget each year.

Our City budget has some crucial issues to face this year. We have over \$500,000 in increased expenses that come from outside of our control. I believe we need new revenue to assist in maintaining our basic services (more details to follow in the November newsletter).

Budget meetings are open to the public! Consider joining us on Wednesday evenings, beginning at 6 pm for the City Council Committee Meeting, followed by City Council at 7 pm at 1805 Continental Place (Police/Court campus). OR, attend a Mayor's Coffee Hour to join in the conversation.

City Library Awarded STEM Grant

The Mount Vernon City Library was recently awarded a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) grant by the Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace (SPEEA) in the amount of \$3,650. This grant will enable the library to set up a mobile computer lab with one teacher station and five student stations. Students will be able to access quality STEM information and learning modules online with the help of a teacher or facilitator. With limited space available at the library, the compact cart-based STEM lab can be stored and rolled out into the Youth Services area of the library when needed. Thank you former Library Board member and Boeing engineer Scott Correa, Boeing Manager Tad Skrobeckie, and SPEEA!



A Fresh Look for Jasper Gates Park

If you've passed by the Jasper Gates "pocket park" on 1st Street lately, you have probably noticed a change. Thank you to Mount Vernon Downtown Association Board Members Paul Springer, Kyp Bisagna and Donna Toepfer for your hard work on the new paint job and for giving the area a much welcomed sprucing up.

